



2003 Standardized Testing and Reporting Program

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions from Pre-Administration Workshops

Can English learners use glossaries for STAR testing?

Only English learners who have been enrolled in the district fewer than 12 months at the time of testing are allowed to use glossaries. To allow the use of glossaries or other accommodations for this group of English learners, the local board must adopt a policy for identifying students that is consistently used at all schools in the district. The policy must include the following criteria:

- The students are English learners enrolled in the district fewer than 12 months.
- The glossaries used should be primary language/English glossaries that the identified students use during daily classroom instruction.

There is no approved use of glossaries for English learners who have been enrolled in the district for 12 or more months.

May English learners who have been in the district less than 12 months use modifications available only to students with documentation in their IEP or 504 plans?

If an English learner has an IEP or 504 plan, he/she may use any necessary and appropriate accommodation or modification specified in that plan regardless of the length of time the student has been in the district. It is the IEP or 504 plan team that determines the appropriate and necessary accommodations or modifications.

How will scores for students tested with modifications be included in score summaries?

Students taking the California Standards Tests out of level or with modification will be counted as “far below basic” in the summary report and for API calculations. Scores for students taking the CAT/6 with modifications will be counted in the first quintile for summary reports. The individual student reports will indicate the student’s actual score and the modification used.

How may parents be notified about the right to exempt their students from tests in the STAR Program?

District and school staff members are allowed to discuss the STAR Program requirements with parents/guardians and notify them of their right to request that their children not

participate in STAR testing. Districts are not allowed to solicit individual parents to obtain exemptions. Any notification by a district that an exemption is available **must** be directed to all parents, not a selected group of parents.

If a ninth grader took algebra I in grade 8 but is not taking a math course in grade 9, which Math CST test will he/she take?

That student would be required to take the grade 8 and 9 General Math California Standards Test (CST).

Is the district required to code “Other Ethnicity” on all students’ information forms?

Yes. If information in this field was not in the pre-ID file, it can be bubbled on the students’ answer documents. Missing data in this field will not trigger a charge or required edit.

Will we be able to equate the five years of Stanford 9 scores with this year’s CAT/6 scores in terms of equivalent NCEs or percentiles?

An equating study will be completed to ensure that data used for API calculations are comparable.

Does “enrolled on the first day of testing” refer to the first day of the 21-day district window or the first day of testing within each school?

This refers to the first day of testing for each school within a district.

Are parent information brochures similar to the Preview for Parents that was available for the Stanford 9 available for the 2003 STAR tests?

No; however, the 2002 Parent Guides posted under Program Resources at <www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star> include information and sample questions for the California Standards Tests.

Our school has received permission to provide 100 percent of our students with a free lunch during testing. Will 100 percent in this demographic field trigger any problems during the data review process?

No, as long as the school meets the state requirement to report 100 percent eligible for receiving free or reduced price lunches.



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If a student takes part of the tests and then a parent submits a letter requesting that the child be exempted from taking the rest of the STAR tests, how do schools handle the answer document?

All letters requesting student exemptions from parents for any or all of the STAR tests should be received before testing begins. Any valid responses from a student will be scored and reported.

If a freshman takes the grade 9 general math test, the scores are reduced two performance levels for API calculations. If a junior takes algebra I, does the same reduction take place for API calculations?

No.

Does a retained student take tests for the same grade level for two years?

Yes.

Can high school directions for test administration be used at all grade levels? Are they interchangeable?

No. They are not interchangeable.

If a student in grade 4 or 7 does not have a writing test score but does have a multiple-choice score, how will their ELA score be counted for the API and AYP?

A student in grade 4 or 7, who does not take the writing test due to absence or parent exemption, will receive a scaled score and a performance level based on the multiple-choice component of the ELA test. That score will be counted for the API and AYP.

How long must districts keep Security Agreements and Affidavits?

Security Agreements and Affidavits should be kept for at least one year or until the district STAR coordinator is sure there were no testing irregularities during that test administration period.

For math testing in grade 8, should students take the algebra I or general math test?

If the eighth grader is to complete algebra I by the end of the 2003 school year, he/she should take the algebra I test. If the student is not going to complete algebra I during that time, he/she should take the general math test.

What's the process for test make-ups, given 20 versions of the test?

Each student must use the same version for all of the tests throughout the testing period. Districts should develop a clear procedure to ensure that students use the same version (e.g., putting the student's name on the test booklets).

When are STAR results going to be available?

Although districts testing early in the testing window may receive their STAR results earlier, all individual student reports and school/district summary reports are scheduled to be delivered to districts no later than early August 2003.

How will the GSE answer documents be linked to STAR answer documents?

For districts using ID numbers, those numbers will be used to match the GSE and STAR answer documents. For other districts, a combination of demographic information including the student's name, gender, grade, and date of birth will be used.

What happens if students don't take the GSE when they bubble in yes, or they take the GSE but did not bubble in their intent to take it?

Nothing. The purpose of the bubble is to assist in the CST-GSE match; a match still will be attempted without the bubble being properly marked.